

Remarks/Arguments:

These remarks are in response to the Office Action dated June 11, 2007. All rejections under 35 USC § 112 and 35 USC § 102(e) have been withdrawn. The only remaining rejection is under 35 USC § 102(b) for anticipation by Gorovits, *et al.*

Claims 1 and 7 are currently amended to clarify that the sample comprising protein aggregates has not been exposed to urea in a concentration greater than 3.5M. Support for these amendments may be found in the published specification on page 3, paragraph 37; and pages 7-8, Examples 7 and 8. No new matter is added by these amendments.

Claims 19 and 20 are added as dependent claims to separately claim methods wherein the sample contains no urea. Support for these claims is found in Examples 7 and 8, and on page 3, paragraph 37. No new matter is added by these amendments.

Gorovits does not teach or disclose that high pressure can increase protein folding in aggregates that have not been exposed to high concentrations of urea, which denatures the protein. As discussed in Applicants' prior response, dated October 30, 2006, the Gorovits methods all include a step of first denaturing or partially unfolding the protein by adding a solution of urea at 3.9M, 6.0M or 8.0M. (See Gorovits, p. 6133-6135).

The methods of amended independent claims 1 and 7 do not include exposing the protein sample to high concentrations of urea prior to applying elevated hydrostatic pressure. Therefore, Gorovits does not teach or disclose all limitations of amended claims 1 and 7 and cannot anticipate these claims. Furthermore, these claims are not made obvious by Gorovits, which does not disclose disaggregation and refolding of proteins that have not been previously treated with 3.9M or greater concentrations of urea. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102(b) rejections over Gorovits be withdrawn.

Applicants submit that Claims 1 and 7, as amended, are in condition for allowance and therefore, claims 2, 6, 9, 12, which were formerly objected to as dependent on a rejected base claim, are also in condition for allowance.

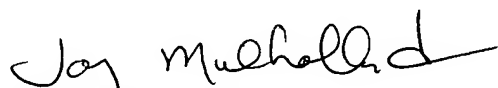
Appln. No.: 10/673,000
Amendment Dated: September 11, 2007
Reply to Office Action of June 11, 2007

UOD-154US1

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance and a notice to this effect is solicited. The Examiner is invited to phone applicants' attorney if it is believed that a telephonic interview would expedite prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce M. Monroe, 33,602
Joy Mulholland, 47,810
Attorneys for Applicants

BMM:JM/sma

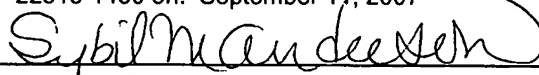
Dated: September 11, 2007

☐ P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

☒ P.O. Box 1596
Wilmington, DE 19899
(302) 778-2500

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Sybil M. Anderson